

PROS COMMITTEE 5/4/09 MEETING REPORT

Prepared for the GGPNC Board Meeting May 19, 2009

1. Griffith Park Greek Theatre Sound Mitigation Update

On May 4, Bob Diaz, Community Liaison Officer, Greek Theatre, Griffith Park, announced the purchase of a new Grozier sound measuring system that it is hoped will be operational at the Greek Theatre by mid-summer. The system will be implemented at a cost of \$40,000 to \$60,000 and is being installed in response to neighbor complaints regarding invasive noise from concerts. The Hollywood Bowl installed a Grozier system and its independent, real-time measurement of decibel levels was an important step towards containing concert noise at that venue.

2. LADWP Griffith Park Travel Town Tank/River Supply Conduit Project

PROS Members were encouraged to attend the Thursday, May 7, 2009, 10 a.m. dedication of the new Travel Town Tank on Mt. Hollywood Drive in Griffith Park (see photos). At PROS January 2006 meeting, the DWP presented plans for this new 750,000 gallon tank providing domestic, irrigation and emergency water to westerly areas of the Park. The committee requested that design and security issues involved in building the tank be handled sensitively and that the oak tree ordinance be followed. Soon afterwards, DWP Managers, Rec & Parks' Urban Forester and Patti Malone of CD4 met several Committee members for a site tour. The DWP showed a textured finish for the multi-story retaining wall being built to hold the new slope being cut into for the project and discussed its plans to further camouflage the structure with native plants. Before and after pictures of the project indicate that these plans were not implemented. At the May 7 2009 dedication, PROS Members attending noted that the completed project presented the urban industrial appearance it was feared would be the result when it was first broached. The implications of this are instructive for the current River Supply Conduit Project running the whole length of Griffith Park, with its necessary demolition and reconstruction of curbs, culverts/retaining walls, fencing, tree removals and other impacts on the historic fabric of the Landmarked Park's WPA/CCC design overlay, an important aspect of Park and civic history (firefighters, FDR, etc.) The PROS Members present at the dedication called to the attention of the DWP the need to mitigate the appearance of the Travel Town project as previously promised and the need to apply sensitivity in the RSC Project upon which it is now embarking.

3. Griffith Park L.A. Conservancy and LFIA Historic Preservation Awards.

On May 14, the Griffith Family Charitable Trust, ICS Jones & Stokes and Jan Chatten Brown received the L.A. Conservancy Preservation Award for 2009 at the Conservancy's Biltmore Awards Luncheon.

On May 18^t, the Griffith Family Charitable Trust and Councilmember Tom LaBonge received the Meliora Award from the LFIA. Five GGPNC Board Members and as many members of its PROS Committee were honored on stage for their successful support.

4. City Budget Crisis Impacts on Recreation & Parks Department

As of May 18, at 8 p.m. City Council budget cuts proposed for Rec and Parks will translate into a 24% reduction in field staffing including the elimination of ten Park Ranger positions and the abolishment of the Chief Park Ranger position. This raises the concern that many of our city parks could become "ghost" or "dead" parks that are barely safe or attractive for public use. Particularly disturbing, is the City Council's contemplation of adding charges for LADWP water and utilities to the Rec and Parks' already stressed operating budget. This is an especially unfair burden to add, because many of our city parks have been long colonized as rent-free locations for DWP power lines and the infrastructure required for the delivery of water to the city -- tanks, below ground conduits, etc. Two highly visible parks close to City Hall, Elysian Park and Griffith Park, are the location of multiple DWP electrical towers which blight them. One of these parks, Griffith Park, is about to be excavated to a fifty-foot depth to replace the 96" tall River Supply Conduit pipes that run beneath the entire length of the Park. During this 3-year project

recreational access, park events and the park itself will be sacrificed to water and power. Who should be paying whom? The PROS Committee feels that the least the DWP should do for their free use of these and other city recreation lands--and, in fairness to the DWP, has done up to this point--is to provide free water and power to our parks. If not, the DWP should be required to pay market lease rates for the acreage they are currently using without payment to Rec and Parks.

Also of note in Griffith Park is the last page of the CLA's budget report which talks about introducing parking fees at the L.A. Zoo lot. The Zoo's initial response to this feeler is to point out the logistical problems this will cause for Park circulation as well as the additional expense for families attending the Zoo. As yet undiscussed is the appropriateness and legality of charging to park at the Zoo vis-à-vis the terms of Colonel Griffith's vision for a free park. A report is due back on feasibility of charging to Park at the Zoo as well as privatizing the Zoo in its entirety.

Finally, with the expected failure of today's ballot propositions it is conjectured that the State of California may will double or possibly triple the \$60 million in revenues being held back from Los Angeles.

5. L.A. River Clean-Up Report.

On May 9, for the fifth year in a row, the GGPNC hosted the Los Feliz Bridge site on the river in Griffith Park, helping boost turnout and hospitality at FoLAR's 20th Annual River Clean-Up. The site was mobbed and the clean-up as a whole was such a success that FoLAR is still counting attendees...their organizers believe, however, that our site was among the biggest. What is known today is:

Our site pulled two tons of trash from the River, which put us in 2nd Place among FoLAR's 16 clean-up sites.

It was the site of a major FoLAR press conference with Assemblyman Kirk Krikorian and Kevin de Leon, Councilmembers Reyes and LaBonge and FoLAR founder Lewis MacAdam, all of whom were made aware of the GGPNC's sponsorship

In recognition of our sponsorship, FoLAR added the GGPNC logo to the souvenir t-shirts it gave away at all 16 clean up sites to the first 100 volunteers at each of them.

From the GGPNC's hospitality tables we gave away approximately:

- 320 breakfast pastries and donuts
- 250 juices and soft drinks
- 4-1/2 wholesale cases of fresh fruit
- 150 cups of coffee
- 260 Los Feliz Beach tank tops
- welcome shade

Thank you to these Los Feliz merchants for their donations:

- Better Life Produce Co...fresh apples, oranges and bananas
- Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf...hot fresh coffee
- Albertson's...\$50 gift certificate
- Capriccio Restaurant on Vermont...4 gift certificate prizes @\$20 each
- Yuca's on Hillhurst/Yuca's Hollywood...20 balloons filled with prizes (free taco, flan, etc.)
- Palermo's Restaurant on Vermont...tablecloths
- Rec & Parks Department...delivery and pick-up of tables and chairs